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## CARPETS AND RUGS.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.



A BORDER SUGGESTION.

"CARPETS of all grades of American manufacture are equal in quality and superior in style to any similar goods that are imported—what I mean by style is cheerful and graceful designs, brilliant effects and harmonious tones in coloring, and a good, clean finish," said Mr. Willard, manager in the carpet department of E. J. Denning & Co.

Need we halt here to tell our readers that E. J. Denning & Co. are A. T. Stewart's successors, and that the new firm is carrying on the business of the old house?

Standing in their carpet department, one is in a vast room fronting Broadway, Ninth and Tenth Sts., where everything is favorable to the prompt and perfect display of goods.

On this floor are about 600 patterns with borders to match, and no duplicates; thus allowing a customer the benefit of a wise selection—an invaluable thing.

Of these miles and miles of carpeting, every foot was woven in home mills except a few pieces of Axminster, of English manufacture. Positively our manufacturers by painstaking and enterprise, have overcome every obstacle, and can point with

a just pride to the trustworthy and beautiful goods they turn out. Fast-dyed, strongly woven and embodying in their designs the spirit of a progressive and tasteful people, our floor coverings are not excelled anywhere in quality or price.

The dull and hackneyed patterns of most foreign carpets are not liked and have very little sale.

Would you buy a carpet? If so, and you are a prudent person, there are many things to consider; where it is to be used and for what purpose, the length of your purse and what purchase will in the end be the best for you.

An extra-super (extra superfine) the best ingrain carpet made, is worth ninety cents a yard. All ingrains are in yard widths, and all other kinds of carpets are one-fourth less in width (twenty-seven inches), so in estimating for a room this matter is considered. There is one little point just here it will be well to remember; although ingrains are one quarter wider than Brussels, the quarter estimate would not apply in fitting a floor; buy one third more yards of Brussels and tapestry than you would of ingrain, and you will be right.

Not very far back, but in the years that have passed, the demand for a three ply carpet was great, but to-day a two ply (extra super) is better and cheaper than a three-ply, and will wear as well as a tapestry Brussels. This is due to the quality of the material, but more especially to close and careful weaving, giving a solid wearing body.

There are two kinds of Brussels: tapestry and body Brussels, and in these goods our manufacturers excel, having by the use of improved machinery, and through the experience of years brought the quality up and the price down. Tapestries are worth from sixty cents to one dollar a yard, and at these figures they are alluring objects, and it is not surprising that great quantities of them are sold.

Body Brussels are what experienced housekeepers depend on, and people who want long service buy them; they cost from \$1.00 to \$1.40 a yard, and are the standard goods in the carpet trade.

Now we come to the strange and agreeable fact, that a velvet carpet can be bought for the same money as a body Brussels.

The difference between a velvet and a Brussels carpet is like the difference between worsted and plush dress goods. The best velvets now sell at \$1.25 and \$1.35 a yard, and this again illustrates the ability and disposition of our manufacturers to meet the people's demand.

A velvet carpet is soft to the touch, displays

all colors to advantage, is pleasant to tread upon, and most agreeable to the eye. The low prices at present prevailing bring them within the reach of most householders.

A moquette carpet worth \$1.60 a yard, only differs from a velvet in having a longer face or pile. It is a soft appearing and pretty covering, but will not wear as well as a velvet or body Brussels. Any one wanting a carpet and who can afford to buy a Wilton at \$2.25 a yard, ought to do so, for everything considered, it is among them all the most beautiful (as Carlyle would say) and the best.

It has the strength and wearing quality of the best body Brussels, and a brilliancy and depth of color not realized in other grades.

The English Axminsters, selling from \$3.00 to \$4.25 a yard, are destined for the hastily constructed palaces of our railroad wrecking and bond-peddling millionaires. They are the most expensive goods in the carpet line, and special patterns are woven to order for our rich citizens.

Borders are used now on all carpets, the design being specially made for each pattern of carpet; the borders are mostly five-eighths yard wide (22 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches).

The fashionable and prevailing ground color is ecru, but drab and pearl have come to dispute its pre-eminence.

One of the most beautiful patterns we saw had a light-tinted ground displaying drab, blue, and greenish foliage of small size.

Carpets of one color are in blue, crimson, olive, green, red, maroon, and black. They are a specialty, and the prices for them are a little higher than the patterned goods, viz.: ingrain, \$1.00; tapestry, \$1.00; velvets, \$1.50. These carpets are used by artists and artistic people for spreading on hard wood floors, and as a ground for one or more bright rugs.

We were informed that better goods are continually demanded and that the improvement in people's taste and their desire and growing appreciation for quality and beauty, are very marked and encouraging.

Kensington art squares are sold in immense numbers and appear to have taken the popular fancy. They have a decided artistic appearance and they are cheap—two good reasons in their favor. They were first made in England, but were quickly copied here, and now a great number of manufacturers are turning them out.

They are the best quality of ingrain carpet woven in one piece, not more than three yards wide and of any required length; so we have them two and a half by three yards square, etc. They are bought as cheap as eighty and eighty-five cents a square yard, but one of all wool of approved pattern and closely woven will cost one dollar a square yard. The patterns include a border, the colors are effective and it is not strange that they meet with such ready sale.

For use on polished floors, or in place of crumb cloths, there is nothing equal to them considering price.

In the rug department, "Smyrnas from Philadelphia," are attractive. They are made in so many sizes and in such attractive styles that they are constantly before the people; the fact is they are successful beyond precedent.

One, four and a half by seven and a half feet in size, reversible, is retailed for \$10.00, when a genuine Turkish or Persian rug of same size would cost anywhere from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

Messrs. E. J. Denning & Co., in order to meet the demand for cheap rugs, make in their own mills an ingrain rug with an all-round worsted fringe about four by five feet in size which they retail for \$2.50, also an ingrain rug with metallic effect representing gold and silver threads twisted with the yarn at \$5.00 each, size three by six feet. These goods cannot be obtained elsewhere.

Of course in this establishment, in addition to what we have spoken of, were piles and piles of gaudy, rich, and choice Persian and Turkish rugs and carpets, hand made, and selling at prices sometimes almost fabulous, but this is a branch of the business requiring an article of its own.

Popular prices are ruling, and most people buying what they need rather than what they fancy.

## HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS.

## WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY SELL FOR.

ONE way of increasing the sum of human happiness is to educate the people in the means and appliances available for use in the preservation and preparation of food and drink. A proper selection of utensils for the kitchen, the table, the sickroom, and the nursery is a subject

worthy the careful thought of every one who values efficient household management.

It may be held there is little beauty and no sentiment in pots and pans, griddles and broilers, but if they are thus despised it is scoffing at one's own stomach.

The kitchen rules the house, and on the details of the kitchen, laundry, and scullery, rest the order, comfort, and glory of the mansion. In a matter of this kind there is great room for knowledge. No one not well acquainted with the subject has any conception of the multitude of articles, large and small, invented and made by ingenious persons, which are applicable and necessary to our every-day comfort and happiness in sickness, health, or the pursuit of pleasure.

In order to enter this wide and inviting field of information, we sought the house furnishing establishment of Lewis & Conger, Broadway, Sixth Avenue and Thirty-fifth Streets, and obtained from them the following:

First in regard to our national morning beverage—coffee—well, there are coffee pots and coffee pots. How many families have a first-class one and keep it in prime order? All admit it is an indispensable thing.

The Vienna coffee pot is a coffee-making machine intended for table use. It can be bought in copper, brass, or nickel, and consists of a pall-like body with a cover and closed spout. It is balanced on pivots in a frame and swings. Inside are two compartments, the lower one being filled with water, ground coffee is put between two strainers, which are clamped and fastened to a hollow tube in the center of the pot. Free alcohol being placed under the kettle, steam is forced up the tube and through the coffee into a receptacle. While this process is going on a glass cover is used, and when the operator notices air bubbles appearing, the coffee is ready for use and the lamp extinguished.

This pot makes black or after-dinner coffee, and is as near perfect as can be had. Price, \$5.00.

The "Eureka" coffee pot is well known in New York and vicinity, as it is made in the city and has been largely introduced. One-quart size for family use sells for \$1.50.

Alcohol lamps are considered almost a necessity, being used in city apartments, in the nursery, in camping out, and by canoeists and hunters. The best comes from France and is known as the triple forced-flame lamp. The flame is made up of three round wicks fitting inside one another, and each separated from the other by a cylinder; therefore we have the force of three flames giving heat sufficient to boil a quart of water in five minutes. It comes in tin, polished brass, and copper, price of the cheapest, \$1.50; two flame lamp constructed on the same principle can be had for \$1.05.

Swinging kettles of brass, copper, or bronze, with alcohol lamp attachment for making tea in the dining-room or library, boiling water, etc., are quite the thing. They are very ornamental table objects, many being artistically decorated with repoussé work. They come from Germany and range in price, according to size and quality, from \$6.75 to \$15.00. A fruit knife holder, also from Germany, is a late importation. A hollow cylinder of antique finished brass contains a dozen knives; one being removed a concealed spring brings another within sight; \$10.00.

Let us look at trays. Although so well known, there is an improvement in them worthy of attention. New and handsomely decorated ones are now imported from Paris; the papier maché of which they are made furnishes a seamless article—not made of two or more pieces, as Oriental lacquer ware. They are ornamented after Japanese and Chinese methods, have become justly popular and cost from 30 cents to \$8.00.

Brass toilet pitchers from Paris in the shape of a can (ugly, but fashionable), have just been imported; \$3.00. The best thing for opening cans and sardine boxes—which bother so many people—is a little instrument working exactly like scissors; on one end is a knife to make the starting cut, and then with a saw-like edge the rest is mere play; \$1.00.

Any householder with a penchant for novelty and service combined, can, for \$5.00, buy an electric gas lighter. In the handle is a battery sufficient to ignite 50,000 burners.

A hot plate is such an excellent thing that it is not strange there are many inventions to make the heating more convenient. One kind receives the ware and is placed over the register in the floor, \$6.00; another covers the register in the wall, \$5.00, and a third kind stands in front of the fire, \$5.00. A larger warmer, holding four dozen plates, is heated by a bar of compressed charcoal which is slipped into a receptacle at the bottom; it takes up a space one foot wide and two and a half feet high and sells at \$15.00.

Odorless cooking kettles and soup digesters are worthy to be called inventions; the odorless cooking kettles for cauliflower, cabbage, onions, and anything that "smells up the house," is a pot that sets in the stove with an open cylinder on the inside below the cover; the steam and odors go down through it into the coal smoke and up the chimney flue, \$1.50; the soup digester is an iron pot with an air-tight iron cover attached by heavy clamps, a valve in the cover allows surplus steam to escape, \$3.00.

A recent importation from Paris is known as an Italian freezer for congealing water ices, ice cream, etc.; a small ornamental barrel with movable heads is swung on pivots, in one end is placed salt and ice, in the other cream; by revolving it the freezing is effected, \$10.00.

Lovers of griddle cakes may remember that round and oblong soap-stone griddles are in four sizes each, \$1.12 to \$1.75, and there is also a reversible cast iron griddle with a hinged bar through the center; when a cake is browned, the griddle—not the cake—is turned, \$1.00; mixers for bread and cake are fastened to the table and do the work of kneading better than the hands, \$3.25 and \$3.50; the Eureka extension handle is made of hard wood with galvanized iron trimmings, and can be used any length from six and a half to fifteen feet; a brush, broom, or sponge can be attached for washing windows, sweeping down cobwebs, and dusting high pictures, 50 cents; "coal vases" for the parlor with scoop attached, are in Japanned iron and brass, some of them beautifully ornamented, \$2.75 to \$20.00. Wood baskets for holding hard wood for the grate fire, are in willow, rattan, and brass, \$2.25 to \$5.00.

An excellent convenience is a walnut bath seat hanging from the sides of the tub; the bearings are of rubber and the concern is adjustable, \$5.00; a jack oven recalls visions of old time roasting, a clock movement in the cylinder revolves the meat or poultry for two hours, and a gravy pan below preserves the drippings; one of thirty pounds' capacity, \$14.50.

Individual terrapin stew pans are now used in fashionable assemblages for serving terrapins, sweet breads, and delicacies of a similar kind; they are made of nickel plated copper with a cover, \$18.00 a dozen.

An adjustable wash stand of sheet iron, Japanned, is of English design, \$8.00, and another contrivance from that bold island is a traveling bath tub used also as a trunk, \$8.00; a locked cork which is adjustable to any bottle and an almost perfect thing for wines, poisons, spirits and perfumes, sells for \$1.00.

Wine coolers are in antique brass and German reposed work; the best have perforated cylinders to hold the bottle; \$6.50 to \$10.00.

Fowler's evaporator is said to moisten and purify the heat from a register; half a dozen circular cotton wicks absorb water from a reservoir, and placed in front of a register, turn the unhealthy heat of furnaces into invigorating air; \$2.00.

Want of space alone prevents us from mentioning more of the articles examined.

#### BOOK REVIEW.

##### WHIRLWINDS, CYCLONES, AND TORNADOES—WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS.

**T**HIS essay on the theory of storms is a reprint of a series of papers which appeared some time ago in *Science*. In these days, when the three furies above named commit such devastation, inquiry into their nature and origin is not mere idle toying with scientific knowledge, but of practical value in opening up modes of escape; or (is it too much to hope) in time even controlling to some extent these destroying forces. Few there are who can define the difference between the three kinds of storm, but on the other hand there are men who are devoting their all of life and mental energy to the understanding of their causes. The Signal Service and Weather Bureaus are the outcome of such heroic research, and give faint suggestion of what may be done in a not distant future.

In the classification made by Prof. Davis, the whirlwind is the simplest form of these rotary storms, and to understand it is, in fact, to understand the initial process in all such disturbances. A condition of stable equilibrium is that toward which the atoms are always striving, and yet if undisturbed, it would be chemical, organic and physical death, and there would be no storms to record or explain in a lifeless world. But varying conditions are constantly disturbing the balance, and a storm is an upsetting, followed by an effort of the atoms to readjust themselves in a state of

equilibrium. In a whirlwind the process is as follows: The stratum of air nearest a level plain becomes heated by radiations from the earth's surface. As the temperature rises the mass expands and, it is evident, will so soon as it has opportunity, change places with the denser gas above, which is pressing down upon it at the rate of one ton to a square foot. If kept in perfect balance this arrangement although unnatural may last for some time, but soon as the upsetting takes place the gravitating mass rushes down as it does so forcing upward the warm and lighter air, which glad of an escape, rushes in from all sides towards the point of egress and a turning movement begins in a direction determined by the strongest current. Thus a chimney or vortex is formed through which the heated air rushes until exhausted at the base. This is a whirlwind, a stationary vortex with a strong up-draught created by solar energy and gravitation, and such is the process in the beginning of all rotary storms. Complicated, however, by other and terrible forces in the two other kinds we are considering, evaporation and condensation with their heat generating powers, bring to the cyclone great stores of energy which add fury and force to the result, besides making it self-acting after it is once begun—accumulating force long after the original supply is exhausted—whereas the whirlwind and tornado cease so soon as the original supply of warm air has escaped.

Nor is this all. There is a force arising from the earth's rotation which tends to deflect all atmospheric motions in the Northern Hemisphere to the right, and in the Southern Hemisphere to the left. Under this influence progressive storms move on well-defined paths in invariable directions—from left to right South of the Equator, and from right to left North of it. The maximum of this influence is at the Poles, and the minimum at the Equator; hence it is that cyclones never occur within four hundred miles of that belt.

It will thus be seen that the oppressive heat and calm which precede a storm are actually the conditions from which it is generated and the longer the pause the greater the accumulation of destructive energy. If added to this there be moisture to evaporate and condense again, and these forces thus generated, after becoming centralized, are caught in the great swing of the earth's rotation, then we have a cyclone, varying in intensity not always destructive but sometimes sweeping over the Southern Seas and leaving a great track of desolation behind. But in its worst form it is less terrible than the tornado which in a restricted space seems to crowd the fury of a cyclone. A black funnel-shaped mass, a spiral vortex, which rushes with a roaring sound sucking up everything which comes within reach of its hideous inrawing and updrawing power. No earthly visitant is more terrible. Its explanation is as follows:

Two currents of wind meet. So long as the warmer goes to the top all is well, but sometimes the southerly current pushes itself beneath a thick stratum of cold northwesterly wind. This is an unnatural arrangement as much so as for a layer of oil to lie at the bottom of a glass of water and both strata begin to look for an opportunity to escape from it—a trifling disturbance affords such opportunity—down presses the cold air through the point of least resistance and the upward movement is begun, the warm air rushing from every direction for the point of escape upward, increasing in velocity as it nears the center, and in proportion as the volume to be exhausted is larger and the point of escape higher than in the whirlwind, just so much more terrible an engine of destruction does it become.

The warm mass, often a mile in diameter and a thousand feet in thickness, whirls through sometimes a mile of cold air before it finds vent. The ever-increasing velocity of this current nearly exhausts the air in the center of the cylinder and the core becomes almost a vacuum; it is in fact an air pump drawing up heavy bodies as if they were straws, and in the words of Prof. Davis: "This inward rushing air is the destructive surface blast of the tornado. It accounts for the explosive action of the air in closed houses, for the outward falling of walls, and other hitherto mysterious phenomena attending these storms, now made clear by M. Ferrel's ingenious explanation. No rain can fall in the center, but is on the contrary drawn up to a great height and falls outside of the storm in the form of hail. A tornado lasts about one hour, and traverses in that time about 30 miles. Its progressive motion being in our hemisphere invariably toward the northeast or east, proving it to be under the control of that great force, already described."

Franklin as early as 1750, first suggested that storm centers were progressive and moved over the earth's surface at variable rates. Indeed his

mind, with the prescience of genius, seems to have correctly divined the action of cause and effect in storms, and rejecting the old theories regarding the agency of electricity, gave an explanation for the phenomena, agreeing essentially with that found in Prof. Davis' book. He had not divined all the causes, but the conclusions he had arrived at were singularly correct. Whereas now, almost a century and a half later, there is scarcely one person in five hundred who will not say, if asked, that electricity is the cause of storms, and be incredulous if told it is only an effect and is not an agent in creating them at all.

#### THE TASTEFUL HOME OF A WORKING GIRL.

**A** YOUNG working girl in a New England town has, at small expense, made the appearance of her room handsome and attractive. The floor was stained by her own hands a dark walnut shade, (after staining give one or two coats of shellac to secure a hard and glossy surface) and is partly covered by a rug made of cheap ingrain carpet in a small pattern of cream and olive bordered by a broad band of plain olive felt. The wall paper is pale olive green, lightly touched out with pink; a narrow frieze of the same color tones terminates at the corners in clusters of tiny pink fans.

One window faces a dingy brick wall, and she covered the panes with a pretty pattern of imitation stained glass which gave a bright effect. The other window is gracefully draped with long full folds of patterned muslin.

A large clothes horse covered with olive paper on which are pasted colored pictures grouped in an artistic way, forms a screen, and shuts off the bedstead and wash-stand from view. A second-hand wardrobe draped with a portière of olive canton flannel contains the brooms, dust-pan and other articles of domestic use.

A pretty willow rocking chair ornamented with olive and pink ribbons and a small hassock stand on the rug.

The room also contains a bookcase of pine, with shelves, closed with a curtain hung from a pole; a couple of second-hand easy chairs, and a small dry-goods box covered with pink and olive cretonne for shoes.

The mantel is draped in olive felt with a border of autumn leaves (cretonne appliquéd), running around it. On the mantel are a Nankin teapot, two tall brass candlesticks, and a large ginger jar in its original blue and white beauty. The latter is often filled with flowers gathered on Sunday walks.

A NEW material for walls has lately been invented, and if it stands the test of time the advantages it seems to have over sand and plaster will doubtless secure its popularity. It is known as soapstone finish, and appears to be mainly composed of pulverized steatite. The merits claimed for it are that it makes a smooth, fine covering for ceilings and walls that with troweling takes a high polish; that its natural tint is pearl gray, more agreeable to the eye than cold white; that it presents the best surface for painting either in oil or water color; that it will not crack or chip, and that nails can be driven into it without damage; that it is a non-conductor and non-absorbent, facts that recommend its use in hospitals, factories, cellars, markets, closets, pantries, and kitchens; that it can be washed without injury; that it wears well and does not turn yellow. If all these claims hold after the properties of the material are fully known and amply experimented with, it will deserve to replace the hard finish in general use. When subjected to heat, moisture and chemical fumes, it is said to give forth no smell, and when painted it is pleasanter to the eye than white finish or cheap paper.

THE old fashion of decorating furniture with underglaze panels seems to be coming into fashion again. A parlor suite has been made for a gentleman in this city which has little circular panels decorated with flowers in the upper rim of the chair backs and larger panels of various shapes with landscapes and birds in the larger pieces. The piano is paneled in the same way with tiles embellished with musical instruments and designs. The color scheme of the tiles is in keeping with the prevailing tint of wood and upholstery, while the glaze gives the ornaments a really brilliant effect. A local piano manufacturer is now building instruments with a view to utilizing the monochrome tiles and panels of the Low pottery in their embellishment.